The Cape Island Folk Festival Is Tip

By JOHN S. WILSON
Special to The New York Times

CAPE MAY — The Cape Island Festival of Folk Music and Crafts makes its second annual appearance here next weekend in much the same fashion as its unostentatious debut a year ago.

There will be only muted publicity for the two-day event, which begins Friday, since its sponsors are concerned over the sensibilities of this extremely conservative community. And the budget again will be a modest $2,000.

The festival, which is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, will be held in the Cape May Convention Hall and on the Physick Estate.

The concerts will be presented at 7:30 on Friday and Saturday nights in the 800-seat hall. On Saturday, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., crafts demonstrations will be held in the open courtyard of the five craftsmen's cottages maintained by the Arts Center on the Physick Estate. At the same time, music workshops will be offered on the huge porch surrounding the Victorian mansion of the estate, and other, informal music sessions will be held in a nearby natural amphitheater.

The 'Festival' Image

The concert performers, who will appear both nights, include Joe Hickerson, Tracy and Eloise Schwarz, Lewis London, the Rev. Fred Kirkpatrick, Marshall Dodge, Fred Starner, the Dildine Family, Stretch and Theresa Pyott and Jim Albertson, a tall, bearded folk singer from Mauricetown, who first suggested the festival.

Mr. Albertson took his idea to Gardner Howes, director of the Mid-Atlantic Center, a nonprofit organization that conducts year-round cultural activities here. Mr. Howes liked the concept, but was concerned over what the reaction to the word "festival" might be.

"'Festival' conjures up images of Woodstock and Watkins Glen," Mr. Albertson explained the other day. "So I got out copies of Sing Out! magazine, some programs I had done and some records. I then made a presentation, describing the Beers Family festivals at Fox Hollow as

The New York Times/Stanley R. Pontiere
Jim Albertson, guitarist, at the Physick Estate mansion

show at the Convention Hall, on Cape May's four-block boardwalk. It was designed to entice passers-by to come to the full day of crafts demonstrations and performances on the following day. Each performer did one number, and then the entire company joined in a mass round robin of songs and folk dancing.

"The introductory concert worked out fine," Mr. Albertson recalled. "But late that night, Tropical Storm Agnes hit Cape May. Some of the performers who were camping out were soaked. We had intended to set up our craft exhibits and hold music workshops outdoors the next day at the Physick Estates. Instead, the craftsmen had to set up indoors in the Convention Hall.

"By noon, when they opened the doors, the storm had become a howling typhoon and not one single person came to the hall. Everybody was discouraged. After a while, it cleared t a foggy drizzle, which wa still depressing.

"But, suddenly, peopl started drifting in. The couldn't go to the beach go sightseeing. It was th only thing in town it, c Labor Day weekend.

THE BARN-TENDERS

At the Old Grey Barn, you get a cordial welcome from Anson Newton, George and Sally Kearney — and the other pleasant individuals called the "Barn-Tenders."

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